

Sometimes axillary shoots on the base of the leafy crown of the pine-apple fruit grow very vigorously, even much faster than the main shoot itself.

Proliferation of vegetative shoots on the stalk or on the crown of the fruit is very common, almost a "normal" phenomenon in pine-apples. Production of fruits at the base of the principal fruit has been noticed by me only twice in this country.

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***Dioscorea tamarisciflora*, Pr. and Burk.**

In September, 1890, Mr. Charles Curtis collected in the Langkawi islands a *Dioscorea* with male flowers, which was described in 1914 under the above name in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, N. S., 10, p. 22, and until recently it has remained known only by his specimens. But in the early part of 1924, two collectors, Mohamed Nur and Kiah, were sent from the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, to the mountain of Gunung Pulai in the south-western part of the State of Johore, whence they brought back living tubers of the same plant; and these gave upon cultivation in the Gardens, both male and female plants. It is possible therefore to add to what is already known about it.

The tubers are black, densely covered with short roots, sparingly branched, the branches more or less cylindrical. They form at the surface of the soil and descend for 20 to 30 cm. It would seem by their appearance and surface growth as if they may be altogether unappetising to the hungriest of wild pigs, the chief destroyers of edible forest tubers. The plate given here well illustrates them.

The stems towards the base and also above carry sparingly small prickles. They attain the thickness of a crow-quill, and climb over any convenient support to 2 or 3 metres.

The upper leaves have been described. The lower are similarly ternate and scarcely differ. All leaflets are relatively small, the middle attaining little more than 5 cm. by 1.75 cm.

The male flowers have also been described. They were produced in Singapore in the greatest abundance.

The female flowers were more sparingly developed. They offered nothing that is not seen in the closely allied species of *Dioscorea*, section *Lasiophyton*.

The capsules resemble those of *D. pentaphylla*: but are slightly more acute, as the accompanying line block shews.

From the Langkawi islands to Gunung Pulai in a straight line it is about 450 miles, i.e. almost the whole length of British Malaya; and the species may occur sporadically throughout the Peninsula. It has been already found in one other place, namely



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